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Hawks' Herald - March 8, 2004

Roger Williams University

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Students seek best avenue for crime restitution

By Jason Turcotte
Co-Editor

An incident stemming from a party that occurred in early February left senior Tristanne Chalmers pitted against more than five disorderly students. When asked the shouting students to stop yelling in the courtyard, Chalmers, 21, alleges that she was verbally threatened and struck across the face by at least one of the students. Chalmers reported the assault to Public Safety and the Core on duty, adamant-

ly requesting it be reported to Bristol police. She was advised by the Core to "sleep on it," she says, as the males in the group were let go before names were obtained. Later that evening of Feb. 8, Chalmers was driven to the Bristol Police station by a roommate to report the incident. According to Chalmers, officers displayed surprise that the university had not reported the assault right away, despite the victim's wishes.

Today, colleges and universities are held more

accountable for campus crime and prevention than ever before, yet lack of a reporting policy at Roger Williams University have some students questioning if their best interests are truly in mind.

According to Director of Public Safety Stewart Angell, there is no current policy stating when Bristol police should intervene with a campus situation. Typically, the approach has been to leave police reporting up to the discretion of the victim. Angell said for Public Safety to immediately report an incident to

the police depends on the circumstances of the situation.

"An individual always retains the right to whether they want to press charges," said Bristol Police Lt. Nick Guercia. He said the victim is often left with the burden of reporting. But "if there could be potential harm to another student, we want to know about it," he said. While Guercia paints a positive picture of the relationship between RWU and Bristol police, he later admitted that serious crimes such as, felonies, robberies and

assaults should undoubtedly be reported by the University. In these situations, Guercia said, "I would hope they [RWU] would notify us."

With the reporting burden often left on the student, several Tidewater residents such as Tim Brennan voiced concern when resident assistants went door-to-door urging that in emergencies students should call Public Safety as opposed to 911. Brennan told the Herald that his RA's advised that

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Absolute Spring Break

By Mike Vining
Contributing Writer

Dave Brown is a senior here at Roger Williams University; he has recently been discussing spring break destinations with his friends for their final semester of college. "It's our last year together, our last break, we gotta do it up right, we gotta live it up." Dave has organized a package for Acapulco, Mexico, with a travel agency in

Bridgeport, Conn.

Right now he thinks that 10 of his friends will be joining him. He has a few more that have yet to make up their minds. "I think there might be more coming, but you never know with these kids." The package is going to cost each person \$899. "It's hooked up: hotel, plane, everything. I think it's a really good deal. It'll be awesome." The \$899 includes eight days and seven nights at a hotel, airfare

First campus forum on diversity sparks unprecedented feedback from students and faculty

By Blaine Moffa
Co-Editor

Students, faculty and administration piled into the law school two weeks ago to participate in an open forum organized by President Roy J. Nirschel. The "Quaker-style" meeting held Feb. 25 was set for attendees to openly voice their thoughts and opinions surrounding the recent controversies facing Roger Williams University. While answers to such issues were scarce, everyone was free to let their voices be heard.

The forum was open to several topics, including civil discourse, diversifying the campus and equal representation for all. Undoubtedly, the "White Scholarship," "Jason Mattera," and "the College Republicans" were phrases visited numerous times.

Adjunct Professor Lisa

Bauer, representing the class of 1983, said RWU has changed significantly since she graduated and she hopes the community can focus on those achievements.

"I think what disappoints me the most is that the school has been so recognized for this scholarship, while all the significant steps that the University has taken to better diversify our campus, haven't."

Bauer thinks that the First Amendment has its limitations. "Freedom of speech, in whatever you write [or say], needs to be in professional boundaries. You can't offend anyone based on their race, disability, sexual orientation, or whatever," she said.

Members of the Multicultural Student Union (MSU) were present at the forum and felt strongly that the College Republicans failed to rep-

resent themselves properly.

MSU Secretary Barkisu Cole says she wonders how far free speech can go before it turns into hate speech.

"They [The Republicans] don't have the right to make me feel bad whenever they want to in writing. You [Republicans] tell us to speak to you individually... how can we speak to you when you don't want to hear what we want to say?"

MSU President Maria Ahmed agrees.

"They say stuff and it's like, 'Ok, I tagged you last now come and get me.' The Republicans are like little children craving attention. They need to educate themselves before they educate others."

Ahmed's pride makes her more involved. "If I told my mother about this

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OPINION

Volume 14, Issue 16

Roger Williams University

Monday, March 8, 2004

Police beat

Arrests

2/28 at 9:48 p.m. Christopher Nirschel, 21, of 334 Almeida Courts, Bristol, R.I., was arrested at 216 Franklin St. by Bristol police on charges of purchase/procurement of alcohol for a minor and possession of weapons other than firearms.

Summonses

2/28 at 9:48 p.m. Leslie Shulman, 18, of 9 Wychwood Road, Livingston, N.J., was issued a summons at 216 Franklin St. by Bristol police on a charge of possession of beverage by an underage person.

2/28 at 9:48 p.m. Katlin Nugent, 18, of 66 Glen Drive, New Canaan, Conn., was issued a summons at 216 Franklin St. by Bristol police on a charge of possession of beverage by an underage person.

2/28 at 9:48 p.m. Amanda Miller, 18, of 19 South Field Courts, Needham, Mass., was issued a summons at 216 Franklin St. by Bristol police on a charge of possession of beverage by an underage person.

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The most recent edition of the *Hawk's Herald* gave me a good laugh when I saw the two letters written about the College Republicans, with a concentration on Jason Mattera. If you are going to write a letter to the editor, you should at least try to look knowledgeable. This can be accomplished by starting with the proper use of the English language. "Alright" is not a word, but "all right" is. A "completely stupid ideology" is not the strongest or most intelligent argument either. "Racist" and "biased" are real original too. Did you two think this up all by yourselves? (By the way, it really took two of you? I wouldn't admit to that if I were you).

What about all of these comments about the Ku Klux Klan? You can't honestly be serious. The KKK is a racist group that cowardly runs around hiding behind sheets and committing racist acts. Sorry, but we haven't been out lynching anyone and don't ever plan to. Plus, we aren't racist. We do not believe that any race is inferior to another, and furthermore, based on that misconception, we don't discriminate. Could you be any more dramatic? I hope that you are all looking for careers on Broadway because you'll probably do well there.

Can you please explain to me how any articles that have ever been published in *The Hawk's Right Eye* have ever disregarded "these people [homosexuals] civil rights"? I don't recall ever talking about taking away anyone's civil rights. I remember an article arguing that basic rights shouldn't be stripped away to make homosexuality a protected class. I recall a story about a young boy who was drugged, gagged and sodomized by two gay men; a story that had not been highly publicized as was the Mathew Shepard case. And there was outrage expressed at the fact Shepard's mother comes here and indoctrinates students their freshman year. Not quite what you allege.

Affirmative action is a local and national political issue, which the Republican Party has predominantly been against. How are we "in direct contradiction to the free will given to every citizen of this nation" exactly? We promote open debate and free speech, what part of the Constitution does that violate? Why don't you read it over and get back to me.

Another strong argument was calling the whites-only scholarship the "latest and the dumbest thing" you've ever witnessed in your life. Mr. Mattera is not a ringleader of some radical cult. The club offered the scholarship, not Jason Mattera. He happened to be the one in the press the most because he is in fact the club president. You claim that no one cares about this "publicity stunt" yet you and your friend cared enough to write a letter to the school paper. Saying that you don't care when your actions say you do, what is that called again? Hypocrisy?

Everything we do is not a publicity stunt, although it may be provocative. No one could have predicted, let alone planned, the media spectacle that developed over the "whites-only" scholarship. Was it designed to make a point? Yes. Was it designed to incite debate? Yes. Was it designed to make international news? No. Let me point out the fact that the scholarship had been out for over two full weeks before anyone picked up on it.

I would like to address the second one printed in the last edition of the *Hawk's Herald*, so I'll finish this with the first. The point we were trying to prove isn't irrelevant to the principles our group stands for. And Jason not being eligible for it is all the more to the point. He had nothing to gain by offering this, but plenty to lose. Surprisingly enough, Jason doesn't make all members of the club sign a preliminary contract promising to fall in lock-step with his ideals.

I have already addressed most issues raised in the letter that followed on the next page. I just wanted to clarify a few things before I close this out. Let me start with the only-child syndrome accusation. Mr. Mattera actually comes from a family with four siblings, not the attention-starved, temper-tantrum throwing child you accuse him of being. But let me concentrate on the broader issues; Mattera can defend himself.

Are we supposed to believe that you are objective or have credibility because you claim that you "agree with some conservative issues"? I am no puppet, and Bill O'Reilly, Ann Coulter, and Sean Hannity are no puppet masters. I actually hadn't read any of them for the first year that I wrote for the paper. I read Coulter and Hannity over Christmas break this year. Hannity was a waste of time; it's insulting to be compared with him. And I have only thought that one of Coulter's books was worth my time. As for Mr. O'Reilly, well I despise the guy. I have never read his books, and I can't stomach a full hour of his show.

If you can define for me what exactly the "right wing approach" to every issue would be, I could tell you where I stand on them. You would have to talk to the other members of the club to find out their views. It's not our message, but the way that we come across that "irritates" you? I'm sorry but there's a simple solution to that problem: Don't read our paper! For someone who doesn't want to allow Black History Month to feed our "media gluttony" you seem to be adding to the spread; your letter is just another entrée to the feast.

The most disturbing aspect of the two letters is the fact that two of the three authors are in classes with Jason and I. There were plenty of opportunities for you to voice your opinions, but yet you remained silent only to come out blasting on paper a week later. I hate to question your manhood.

Monique Stuart

NEWS

Volume 14, Issue 16

Roger Williams University

Monday, March 8, 2004

Acapulco

cont. from front page

and a party pass, which will give each person plenty of discounts and free drinks. But is it really worth it? In Dave's opinion it definitely is. He sees it as one final party for himself and his friends. "You only live once," said Dave.

Josh Poirier, also a senior at RWU, went on a similar spring break trip last year. Josh went to Nassau, Bahamas. He went with a group of 24 students, the majority being from RWU. His trip was booked with Studentadventuretravel.com, a travel agency in Illinois that specializes in college and high school trips. Josh had a great time on his break, and is currently looking into what he and his friends may do for this year.

Josh's trip cost him \$1047 per person. The price included: eight days/seven nights, airfare, meal plan and a party pass. Josh was surprised at the hotel. "It actually wasn't that bad. I thought it would've been worse, but it didn't matter anyway, we weren't in the rooms that much." They

received coupons for meals at different locations.

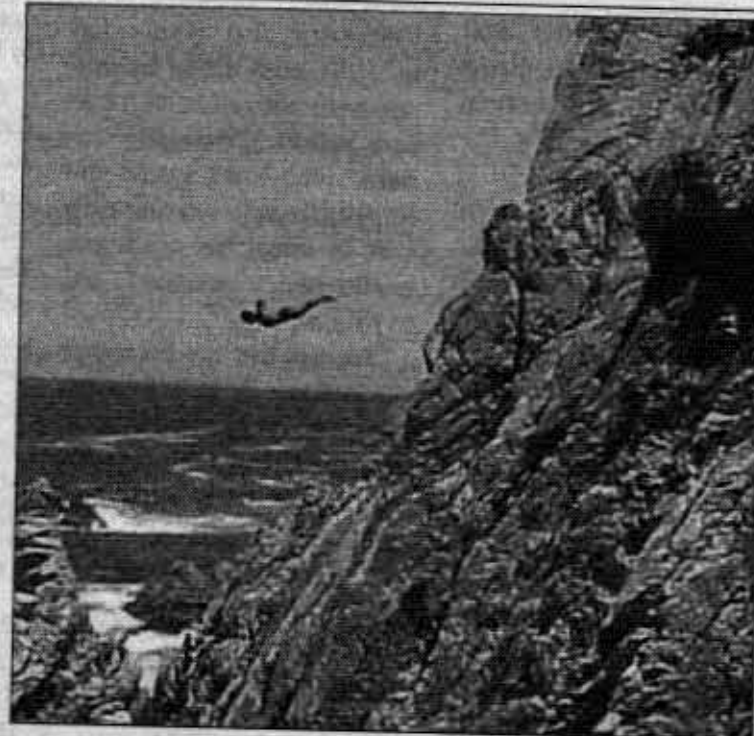
"The restaurants weren't that bad either. Some of the prices were \$15 a meal. But we were eating pizza pretty much every day for breakfast."

Part of it was that the coupons only allow vacationers to eat at certain places at certain times. "We called it breakfast, but it was more like lunch. You don't go on spring break to eat meals, you're going to party and hang out with your friends."

The party pass that they received gave them something to do each day. During the day they would do a planned activity: relaxing on a beach, water sports, contests among others. Some drinks would be free at these events and others would be discounted.

"The free drinks they gave us kind of sucked. It was a rum punch, but you could tell they used the worst stuff to make them. I stopped drinking them after the second day."

After their activity during the day they would have a happy hour in the early evening at a restaurant or bar. They would use some of their coupons there and



drink for a while at discounted prices.

Their main event was at night when they went to different clubs that hosted parties. They didn't have to pay the cover and they were served free and half-priced drinks all night long. "You could really get your money's worth here, it was just a lot of fun. Spend your day at the beach and then go out clubbin' at night."

Josh really enjoyed his trip. He was surprised at how nice the hotel was and he felt that the trip was well worth the price. However, there were a few things that he didn't enjoy.

"The transportation really sucked. The flights we had were charter flights so they left at horrible times. We left really late from Boston and then left the Bahamas wicked early to come home. But the ride was fun. The entire plane was full of college kids, so it was pretty entertaining."

Josh was also dissatisfied with the transportation he received in the Bahamas going from hotel to club. "The rides weren't long, but they packed us in these vans and little buses. It

sucked because it's so hot down there and pretty much everyone was drinking. I guess that's the price you pay."

The ladies at RWU are also planning on having some fun in the sun. Senior Kristin Ferency has organized a group of 18 people to go to the Mayan Riviera. Kristin and her friends will be paying \$1300 per person.

"I definitely think it's gonna be worth it. No matter how you look at it, we're all seniors, this is the year to do something big." Their trip includes everything Josh's trip to the Bahamas did, as well as meals and gratuity.

"We're staying at a resort and everything is included. The only real reason to bring any money with you is if you wanna go shopping in Cancun, or do other stuff not offered in our package," Kristin said.

Dave and Kristin won't know if their packages were worth the expense until they experience the trip. Josh knows what he is getting into and is excited to do it all over again. Whether or not these spring break trips are worth it usually depends

on the type of person you are. For those who enjoy a totally crazy spring break, full of alcohol and co-eds, then this kind of travel package is well worth the consideration. If you're looking for strictly rest and relaxation you may want to look elsewhere.

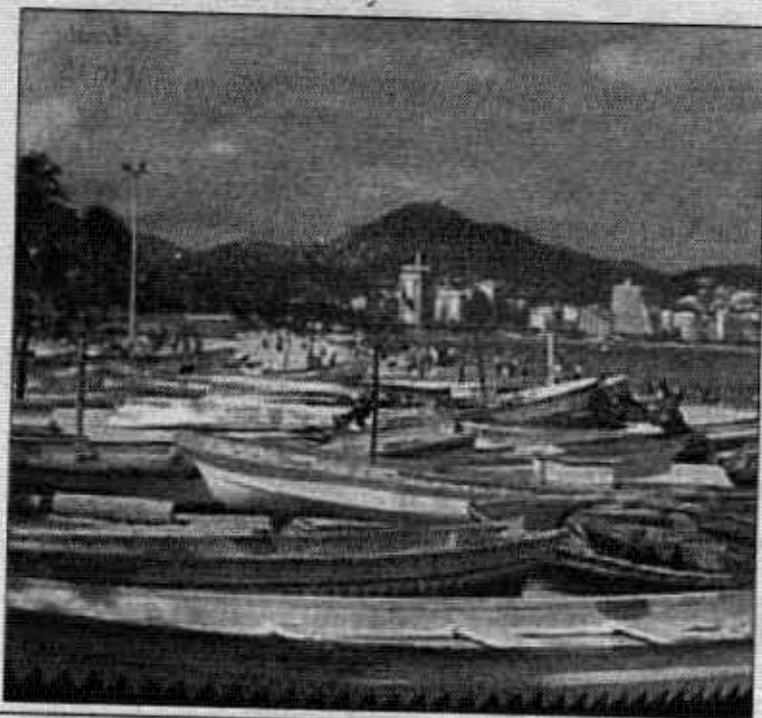
Dave is expecting the trip of a lifetime. He is looking to get away from the worries of school and party with his friends. He wants to dance in packed clubs that you can't even walk in. He wants to meet a girl, just for a night. He wants to lay on sun-soaked beaches and try to remember what he did the night before.

But this type of spring break isn't for everyone. Some students want to enjoy a week off and remember what they did. Those students are advised to steer clear of the types of packages that Dave, Josh and Kristin have purchased.

Dave and Josh are willing to pay a cheaper price on a hotel that they won't be in much anyways. They will take a bad flight to get to their paradise. And they'll drink rum punches made with the worst rum and whatever the punch might be, just because it's free.

These students may have overpaid and perhaps are getting ripped off with the trips they've purchased, but like anything else, it will be what they make of it. Twenty years down the road, Dave knows he isn't going to remember how much he paid for that last college spring break. He does know that he'll remember where he was and who he was with.

"I just wanna go away with my boys for an awesome week, you only live once, right?"



Upcoming Events

Monday, March 8: Senate meeting, 6:30 pm; Alive arts! PAC 8 pm

Tuesday, March 9: Intramural floor hockey, softball, and indoor field hockey team campain meetings

Wednesday, March 10: Socrates Cafe, 7 pm; St. Patty's Day Event, Dining Hall; Men's Volleyball, 7 pm

Thursday, March 11: Expression Session, 10 pm Other Place

Friday, March 12: Dorms close 7 pm - Enjoy your Spring Break!

News/Opinion

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Forum

cont. from front page

and she asked what I did, and I said nothing, she'd probably smack me and say, 'You did nothing?!' I know I didn't work my ass off for four years in high school to get to this university because I'm black."

Student William Clifford, who attended the forum, said it lacked certain structural foundations and that the university needs to make 'major reforms' in regards to the approach to race and social equality.

"Words and speeches sound great, but what everyone realizes is that at the end of the day, Jason Mattera and his cronies did a big thing badly. . . As soon as anyone starts stripping people down to racial classes, skin color or accents, that's when you start taking away their humanity."

Clifford thinks the Republicans should have used their time in the media spotlight to educate the community on a larger scale. Instead, he said, a media frenzy took over the campus and the issue was lost.

He also thinks the lack of a proper administrative voice hurt the community. "I think it's unreasonable to mobilize a united front when the standard for a

university of ideals and enlightened thought turns a deaf ear to a firestorm such as this that rips the student body in twain."

Clifford, who is of Scottish and Chinese descent, says he has spent a lot of time thinking about the diversity issue.

"The College Republicans rant and rave and hide behind freedom of speech, but what's insulting as a member of the college community,

a minority and a person,

is that it isn't as though they lead by example and champion intellectual discourse -- they embody everything that is offensive in that academic arena these days. They parade their ignorance as a badge of pride, they beat their breasts and flood our community with hate-speech."

Jason Mattera, in a submitted future Letter to the Editor for the *Herald*, said students should have been embarrassed by the vacuous comments that were presented during the forum. Mattera said he saw no outrage, or cry of "hate speech" when Judy Shepard came to campus in the fall and explained how "churches are damaging to our society."

"It's this reconstructed and bastardized view of 'diversity' -- only acknowledging one opinion -- that is a 'disease'," he wrote.

Mattera also responded to comments made by students surrounding affirmative action. One such student, who said while the Republicans' scholarship was in effect his academic performance declined, led to this reply:

"Herein lies the problem: minorities have to stop blaming everyone else and have to start taking responsibility for their own per-

"We need to protect all points of view and sometimes that means protecting those that are less loud."

formances," said Mattera.

Mattera says while President Nirschel promotes individualism, support of the First Amendment and diversity, Nirschel portrayed the Hawk's Right Eye as opposing those same principals. Mattera argues the Right Eye should be praised for bringing a fresh perspective to campus.

In a post-forum letter from President Nirschel to the campus community, he said he respects the First Amendment of every individual, but adds, "I reject completely the viewpoint of those who create stereotypes and engage in activities that are contrary to other values I consider sacred -- respect, civil discourse and building a community of learners. This type of rhetoric does not contribute to civil dis-

course and isn't particularly intellectual."

Associate Professor of Criminal Justice Robert Engvall, said the forum was largely a success, but wants students to remember that they represent only themselves.

"When we're certain we're right, it goes against what college is all about: the opportunity to think about things. The media hasn't portrayed us as

thinkers. This isn't Jason

[Mattera's] fault, but I think the Republicans could have done a better job to clearly show they represent a minority group on campus."

Engvall stresses that the issue is complicated and silence doesn't always mean agreement.

"We need to protect all points of view and sometimes that means protecting those that are less loud."

Engvall came to the forum and spoke because he felt the faculty was being cast in a negative light.

"Some people say we shouldn't address these issues inside the classroom, and then there are those that call us weak because we don't. Academic freedom gives us the power to talk about whatever we want. The Republicans, or any students, don't control what goes on in my class-

room, but if it pertains it will be discussed."

The scholarship, Engvall felt, was a step backward from the multiple steps forward the university has taken to promote diversity, but not a permanent one. He says diversifying the campus can happen and forums are a positive way to get students involved, but they should happen before an incident occurs.

"We should be able to talk about negative things without having something happen first," Engvall said.

MSU Secretary Cole, who is also a resident assistant in Cedar, says the student body as a whole seems less interested, and sees that response from her residents.

"There are just some people who don't care and it brings me down. You're supposed to be proud. When someone gets written up it's a huge deal. And you can't force someone to care. Personally, I don't think anything is gonna happen from here," Cole said.

Freshman and MSU member Jaennete Liraino agreed. "I want to see what the student body will do about it now. There were more people that attended the Reggie Jones lecture to see who won the scholarship than came to the diversity vigil. Everyone's still stuck on the black and white thing and it's way past that."

Safety

cont. from front page

the 911 system dispatches the call to a center out of state. Brennan was skeptical of the advisement and was one of many students left confused by the procedure.

When asked about the 911 system on campus, Director of Judicial Affairs Heidi Hartzell dialed 911 from her office and the call connected to Public Safety rather than Bristol dispatchers. Hartzell and Angell explained that if the call transfers to Public

Safety then the university is able to pinpoint the location of the emergency. However, if nine is dialed before calling 911, the call connects to Providence dispatchers before making its way to Bristol, said Angell. Both Angell and Hartzell suggest that students call Public Safety to report incidents and ensured that if the crime merited it, that the police and/or paramedics would be called in by the University.

Originally universities were held to a standard of "in loco parentis," a term that meant a schools' relationship with its students

be parental. However, since the 1960s this perception had steadily declined and was eradicated in the 1979 case of *Bradshaw v. Rawlings*, granting increased rights to college students. Along with these rights came the burden of reporting crime. However, colleges are still liable if they are negligent in fostering a safe environment for its students. But when these crimes are reported, schools are required to make the information public via a yearly report.

A federal mandate required that each college and university both public and private report its year-

ly crime statistics to the U.S. Department of Education no later than Oct. 24, 2000. In addition, schools must distribute its crime report to current and incoming students. For those institutions that do not comply, a risk of losing federal aid looms. This new level of accountability stems partly from the lobbying of the parents of Jeanne Clery, a 19-year-old student raped and murdered at Lehigh University in 1986. Clery's murderer was able to bypass four doors propped open by pizza boxes before reaching her room. Lehigh had withheld statistics citing that 38 violent crimes

were reported at the university in the three years prior to Clery's death. Because of 1990's Jeanne Clery Act, schools now face a \$25,000 fine per unreported crime.

With the yearly crime data reported to the U.S. Department of Education, one could argue that RWU harbors a relatively safe environment. According to the statistics, some crimes such as, non-forcible sex offenses, robbery and motor vehicle theft simply do not occur at RWU. While crimes such as assault or arson are few and far between. In fact, from

continued on Page 8

SCIENCE

Volume 14, Issue 16

Roger Williams University

Monday, March 8, 2004

Tropical Ecology, Belize: The final exam

By Garry Dow
Science Editor

This project started out as a humble three part series dedicated to my travels in Belize. Since then it has mushroomed into a massive six part series. In the process I have written more than 6,000 words and amassed just under 13 single-spaced pages.

As I look over all that I have written I am both proud and disappointed at what I have accomplished.

I had hoped to capture every moment, every word, every feeling. I tried to recount—as best I could—an indescribable experience. It was the obvious mistake of a novice writer.

The result, therefore, is not a detailed account of my travels; instead, it is my humble attempt to capture, in words and phrases, the essence of what the trip meant to me.

Day 9. It is January 17, 2004. It is 3 p.m.

We had spent three glorious days snorkeling the reef on South Water Caye, an island paradise that rests 15 miles off the coast of Belize. Soon enough, however, we found ourselves back at Pelican Beach Dangriga.

Exhausted, I collapsed on the bed.

Two hours later—freshly shaved and showered—I wandered down to the ocean side patio where our group had begun to gather.

Happy Hour started at 5:30 p.m. and ran until the bar closed at midnight. Beers went for \$1 and mixed drinks cost \$3. It was the gift that kept on giving all night long.

After a few rounds the locals showed up and the party began to swell. Soon the limbo contest was underway.

While a Belizean band provided the music, the bolder members of our humble group went round for round with several local heavyweights until only one man remained: it was Bill, a lanky RWU junior.

After the limbo competition had finished, the party settled down. While most of the group turned to conversation, I was content listening from a distance. I had done enough talking for one night. Soon my eye lids grew heavy under the weight of all they had witnessed and before I knew it I was fast asleep.

Day 10. It is January 18, 2004. It is 4:30 a.m.

Early the next morning I awoke feeling, well, like I had spent the night on the beach. Sand was in my hair, in my clothes, and even in my bed—evidently I must have awoken, probably

quite confused to find myself still on the beach long after everyone had gone, and returned to my room.

Mindful that everyone was still sleeping (including my roommate Pete), I made my way down to the dock where I thought the sea air would do my unsettled stomach some good.

Twenty minutes later an old fisherman in a home-made canoe floated past the dock. He had less than half an inch of freeboard separating his time-worn vessel from the bottom of the sea.

He smiled. I waved. And he continued on.

An hour later the sun rose. I had expected it to be a long drawn out type of event—something more in sync with the relaxed attitude of the Belizeans. Instead it felt rushed. For such a laid back people, the sun was in an awful hurry to rise.

Nonetheless our last day in Belize was finally upon us. Beginning after breakfast we slowly began to trickle down to the dock, our group pooling like spilt milk on a table.

To say we were reluctant to leave would be an understatement. But when the bus finally arrived, as reluctant as we were, every one of us climbed in for the final ride.

Three hours later we boarded a plane and as suddenly as we had

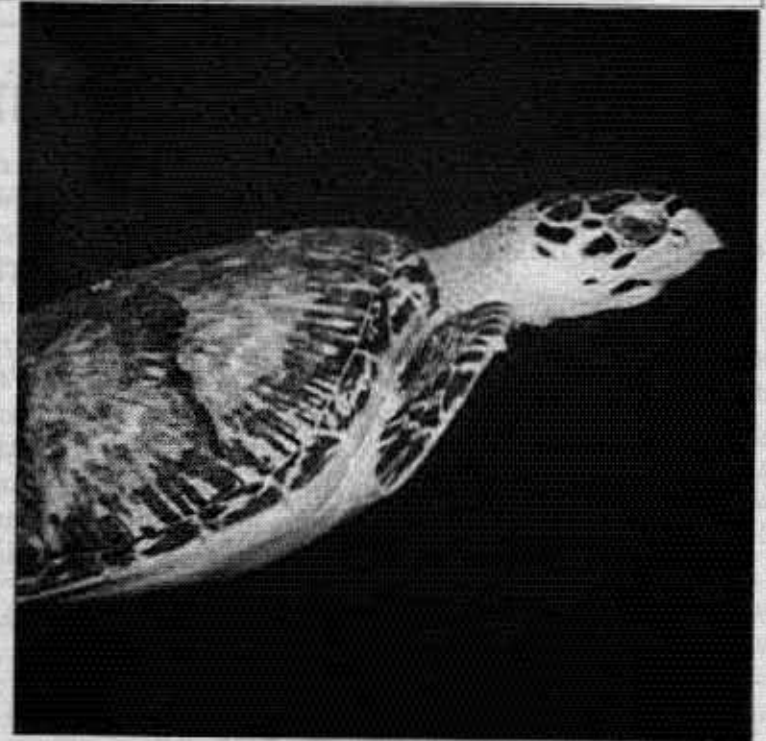


Photo courtesy of Yahoo! Travel

arrived, we were gone.

Ultimately there was no final exam. There had been only one requirement all along: attendance. For that, we received three credits and an A for the class.

These pages are my penance for getting off easy.

It is only fitting, I think, therefore, that I finish this story the same way I started it: a thousand miles away, with a photograph of a young man sitting by his dead brother in an unkempt cemetery at the edge of the Caribbean Sea.

I did not take the picture and I have never seen it, but I know it exists. I know because I was there when it was taken.

The photograph was taken by a friend of mine; Ambre. Together we had stumbled into an overgrown cemetery about a mile away from our hotel in Dangriga.

The cemetery was a strange mix of floral-colored mausoleums and intricately carved tombs splashed across a grassy hillside.

Because the water table is so high in the tropics, there are no underground burials.

I was busy snapping away when I noticed a man approaching Ambre from a distance. Not being altogether comfortable with the situation, I edged closer just in time to hear him begin:

"Excuse me," he said quietly. "Would you mind tak-

ing a picture of me and my brother?"

"Oh. Hello," Ambre said, unnerved. "Alright." The man walked over to a nearby grave, crouched down and began to smile.

"My brother died five years ago," he said. "His lungs didn't work anymore. I never had a picture with my brother."

Unsure what to say, she asked if he lived nearby. He pointed to a yellow shack overlooking the cemetery.

"Well," she said and then stopped. What was there to say? It was in that awkward silence that Ambre snapped the photo.

After a few moments the nameless man thanked her for taking the picture. Soon he disappeared down the road. We never saw him again.

He left no mailing address and made no mention of seeing the photo. Looking back I think he just wanted the experience of having a picture taken with his dead brother—it was an opportunity he never had in life.

Sometimes I wonder how the picture turned out. I wonder if it looks the same as it does in my mind. Was the grass as green? Was the tomb lavender? Was the man smiling? In the end I have to remind myself it makes little difference.

I was there. And that is enough.



Yahoo! Travel

Upcoming Events

Science Math
Seminar Series
MNS 200 (4:30-
5:30 p.m.)

Wednesday
March 10, 2004
Topics in cutting
edge microbiological
research

CAMPUS LIFE

Volume 14, Issue 16

Roger Williams University

Monday, March 8, 2004

Dane Delivered: Kool-Aid comedian scores laughs and reveals some personal insights in post Q&A session

By Chris Villano

Contributing Writer

Disgruntled students waited over an hour in the pouring rain for the doors to open for the Dane Cook show. But soon enough their sides split from hysterical laughter and rising for an ovation seemed like a medical miracle. All 1,200 students managed to rise and give credit to Cook, with a standing ovation that lasted several minutes. The Feb. 21 show lasted a little over an hour, but memories of the night will last much longer.

Who could forget when Cook noticed a change in the stage lighting mid-show, which the crowd noticed as well, and said, "What the hell was that?"

As the light suddenly changed to a dark red, he said, "what am I, the devil now?"

The bit about staying home from school and work quickly became a crowd favorite.

"Because everyone knows when you stay home there's one show that you absolutely have to watch... The Price is Right," exclaimed Dane to resounding applause. He then went on to talk about the old women and their "I Love Bob" T-shirts, accompanied by a dead-on impression of the endlessly spinning, flickering and-beeping money wheel.

Most of the audience members that night left satisfied, and departed with smiles and the knowledge that their money had been well spent. Yet not everyone was ready to leave; almost two hundred students patiently waited in line to talk with him.

For a show that lasted a little over an hour, Dane stayed an extra three for the "meet and greet," where fans were treated to autographs, pictures, and the opportunity to buy his merchandise. He also did a few station identifications

for WQRL.

It was a month ago that the school was made aware Dane Cook was coming to do a show. Acting on this knowledge, and the fact that Dane cares for all of his fans, I e-mailed him and asked if I could have an interview after the show. To my surprise he quickly responded, granting my request. I introduced myself to him mid-way

through the meet and greet and he told me to wait behind him. He assured me that when he was done we'd do the interview.

This sounds simple, but to the dismay of CEN, Public Safety, and Dane's manager/brother (the "burger king"), I was bringing along a few friends that wanted to ask Dane questions. Needless to say the mentioned parties were not pleased, and that created a daunting task for me to

arrival. Before Dane entered, the room filled with boisterous fans and CEN members. I informed him how he had really come through for all his fans and delivered an amazing and unique performance. This, combined with a second standing ovation, obviously invigorated the sleep-deprived Cook as he jumped up on the table and screamed "whaaaaaats uuupppp!"



For those who weren't lucky enough to stick around, here is what Dane had to say after the show:

HH: So Dane, let's start this off with something really

X-Box, maybe a little Tony Hawk or some shooter game. I've also never had a drug or a sip of alcohol in my life." (Yet somehow he nailed the impression of a drunk person during the show). "I don't get nervous before a show, I like to have people around me in the back pumping me up and getting my adrenaline going. I don't bite my nails or anything like that, it's not like I'm twitching and freaking out like Nomar in the dugout, don't quote that out of context though, because I'm a die-hard (Red) Sox fan!"

HH: Do you plan what jokes you're going to do before you go on stage?

DC: "No I never plan my shows or write down any materi-

al. I do a lot of improv on stage. I like to just kinda go up there with a nugget of a thought. I just go up there and take a little idea and basically just build it on stage. I like the feeling that each show is going to be

tingling feeling I got from the magic brush and paste but after awhile it became too much work and I had to retire my tongue brush-good question!"

HH: I just want to say that you are one of my idols and I was wondering if you had any idols.

DC: "Ever since I was really young, when HBO and Showtime first came around, I would watch Louie Anderson,

(Andrew) Dice (Clay), Rodney Dangerfield and old Richard Prior stuff. But I'd always been into comedy... I loved old Charlie Chaplin movies; I loved John Ritter, Jerry Lewis. I just really loved comics and I loved people who were funny and people who were fearless. Those were my favorite types of performers."

HH: Are you working on any new projects we can look forward to?

DC: "Well I'm working on a pilot for my own show. It's for UPN -- I know what you're thinking, but I want people to be like: 'This is on UPN?' when they see it. UPN basically told me I could do whatever I want, so I'm going to take that freedom and run with it."

Unfortunately the interview in its entirety is not fit for print, the same way all non-RWU students were required to be 18 and over to enter the show.

The interview tape should have been slapped with an "explicit content" sticker. And unlike the rest of the crowd, the biggest "F-bomb" I dropped that night wasn't when I saw the humungous line and realized I'd be one of the last to get inside; it was when I left and realized I was the last person to get out and had just interviewed Dane Cook.

"What the hell was that?" As the light suddenly changed to a dark red, he said, "What am I, the devil now?"

accomplish my fan-oriented interview. The one thing I had on my side, barring my manipulative charm, was Dane's blessing that I could have a few people join me in the interview.

This proved to be all that was needed and after about an hour of waiting and cooperation from all parties involved, the 10 of us were in the student senate chambers awaiting his

important; Gillette Mach 3 or Schick Quattro?

DC: "Good question, I like where this is going. I'm definitely a Mach 3 man. I read somewhere on the Internet that the four blades of the Quattro can cause more ingrown hairs, so I'm sticking with my racing stripe Mach 3."

HH: Do you have any pre-show rituals and do you get nervous before a show?

DC: "I like to play a little

special, not only for the crowd but for me as well."

HH: Just because my girlfriend and I were talking about it today, do you brush your tongue?

DC: "Wow, well that's interesting, because I went to the dentist a while ago and he gave me this contraption that I think was a brush and came with a special paste for the brushing of the tongue. I can honestly say I enjoyed the

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Being black at RWU

By Elhiasar Steve

Contributing Writer

When two black males walk by each other, more often than not, they will give each other a nod, acknowledging that the other is there. At Roger Williams University being a black student can often feel like being a tourist in another country, or cause feelings of alienation. But when two black students cross paths on campus, they can at least understand each other.

It is difficult not to stand out when you are black at RWU, whether you are a student, a professor or a faculty member.

Bryant Fils, 20, a junior, has known that feeling of needing to find something familiar. He says that a lot of the black students on campus almost get a magnetic reaction when they see someone of the same color for the first time. This feeling is especially prevalent among the guys.

"The first instinct is to stick together," he says, "because there are not a lot of us to begin with."

Fils goes on to explain that the instinct is just an initial reaction. As he has done with all of his friends, he tends to get to know the other black students before determining whether or not he wants to befriend them.

"You're not going to be friends with someone just because they're black," he says.

Candace Mack, 22, a senior, agrees with that sentiment. "I make an effort to introduce myself to the ones I see, but would I call all of them my friends? No. But I know most of them."

Black students come to RWU for different reasons, ranging from athletic recruitment to academic programs. Both Fils and Cortney Robinson, 19, a freshman, enrolled at RWU to play for the men's bas-

ketball team. Fils decided to quit the basketball team because of differences he had with the new head coach.

Mack has lived in all types of neighborhoods and areas from Dayton, Ohio, to Los Angeles. She has been living in East Providence for the past ten years. Both Fils and Robinson come from urban areas; Fils coming from a suburb of Boston and Robinson living in New York City for most of his life. Because of where he comes from, Robinson is sometimes set back by the university's lack of minority students.

"It's been hard to adjust to at times," he says.

Fils, who spent his life in private schools, has somewhat become accustomed to being "outnumbered" racially, although he is from an area that is culturally diverse. His transition from home to the racially malnourished RWU was difficult at first, but he has been able to adapt.

"I've always been good at adapting," says Fils. "At times in the beginning it was kinda tough. But as I got older and more mature, it got OK."

Robinson is going through the same difficulties, quite possibly because he is still in his freshman year of college.

"Many people at the school aren't used to being around black people," he says.

Mack echoes Robinson's opinion, stating that she also has had problems with students who weren't accustomed to being around a black person.

"I've had a roommate go to housing and ask to be moved because she never lived with a black girl and didn't know how to deal with it," said Mack.

Robinson has had other situations that have made him uncomfortable. "People have said the word 'nigger' in front of me.

They say, 'Why can't I say that.' And I tell them, 'because you just can't,'" says Robinson, who continued saying, "people constantly ask me what it's like to be black and other stupid questions."

Fils doesn't think he has ever felt uncomfortable, but just out of place at times.

"You feel like 'what am I doing here?'" he says.

He admits that in most of his classes he would be the only black kid in his class, and that it is a rarity for another black student to be enrolled in the same class as him.

"Freshman year, I almost wanted to keep quiet, says Fils. "It was overwhelming."

Unlike Robinson and Mack, Fils has not had any direct situation that would make him feel uncomfortable based on his background. He feels that because he is a "big guy," most people aren't forward enough to ask him racial questions or make comments that would be deemed controversial.

It is agreed that there are certain fallacies that some of the students have about black people the same way black students have stereotypes about white people. Certain misinformation leads some to believe that all black people are ghetto.

"A lot of people seem to think I smoke weed. People will ask me if I can rap," says Fils.

Robinson echoed Fils' sentiments, saying he is not a "thug". "We're not all ignorant and stupid. I have a brain in my head," he says.

Despite all the hurdles that they have encountered at RWU, all three say they have made friends on campus - white friends included.

Robinson admitted that he is sometimes happy here on "good days."

Fils says, "It's not as

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Photo courtesy Mark Wertheim

The Token Male: Solo and successful on RWUET for two seasons

By Ellen Casady

Contributing Writer

Their calves burn and pulse heavily from the pain of their skin-tight tall boots. Girls rush to braid each other's hair and precisely placing every wisp into their hairnets and then into their velvet helmets. These rituals take place before they mount 1,500 pounds of power.

The equestrian sport in college has typically been seen as a female sport in the past couple of decades, but since last semester a male has joined this elite team of equestrian ladies.

Some would say he is the luckiest man in the world and lives every college male's fantasy. Many on the team call him the "Token Male." Mark Wertheim, a freshman, is the only male on the 30-member coed equestrian team at Roger Williams

University.

Overall, the team has accepted the token male onto the team. Stacey Mac Govern, a freshman member of the Equestrian team, said, "I think that Mark gives the whole team an extra boost of encouragement. . . it's great having a male on the team."

In the past decade there have been males on the team, but they have only lasted for a semester. Wertheim is continuing for a second season this spring and beyond. The RWU equestrian team competes in a region with top schools like Brown, Trinity and UConn. Jason Siebenthal from Colverdale, Calif., of Connecticut College, is the only other male rider in the region besides Wertheim.

Siebenthal says he has stayed so close to the sport, because it keeps him busy, and it teaches character.

Wertheim started riding

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Safety

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2000-2002, RWU reports just one incident of aggravated assault. The statistics can be viewed in their entirety on the department's Web site: <http://www.ope.ed.gov/security>.

"There's no attempt here for us not to involve police," said Hartzell, who continued in saying, "We want to disclose what we're allowed to... and we've been pretty successful in that." And as for RWU's yearly crime reports, Hartzell said they include both incidents reported to the police and those dealt with judicially on campus.

Guercia claims that most crime is reported by the university rather than students and calls RWU a very cooperative institution. However, when senior Jenny Freeland was a freshman at RWU her "stalker" was only brought to the police's attention, because her mother's friend knew someone on the force. According to Freeland,

when seeking help from Public Safety and Judicial Affairs, she was never presented with the option of reporting the incident to the police.

While Freeland wasn't thrilled with the response she received from Public Safety, she was satisfied with how Judicial Affairs handled the situation. A no-contact order was enacted and her "stalker" soon dropped out of the class he had with her. "They must have scared him somehow," said Freeland. The following semester, he was removed from campus for what she believes was similar behavior towards two other female students. "If it kept up I probably would've explored other options," she added.

For Chalmers she has yet to see results from reporting to the police and Judicial Affairs, but said Bristol police was much more helpful. "The school didn't follow through, because it was a situation where it was one word against another," she said. In fact, for seeking judicial action Chalmers found herself treated like the culprit



Photo by Jason Turcotte

rather than victim. To her surprise, she was slapped with judicial probation, a \$25 fine and one week to meet with a wellness coordinator regarding alcohol, at her hearing held Feb. 27. Judicial Affairs alleges that she violated several student conduct codes including "acting in a disorderly manner," despite Chalmers being of legal age.

If she fails to meet with a wellness coordinator within a week, Chalmers says she will face a \$100 fine; all resulting from reporting an assault judicially on campus. Hartzell couldn't comment on any specific cases but said, "Most important-

ly for us, we're an educational system. We want people to learn from our system and take responsibility for their actions."

Many students not only remain in the dark when it comes to the process of reporting campus crime, but many are uncertain as to the best method of reporting. Some resort solely to police, others solely to Judicial Affairs and a few will report crime to both entities. When asked which is the best avenue for victims of crime to take, Angell responded, "That's entirely up to the student. But either way you might not get restitution."

Black at RWU

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much fun as you would have at a big school, but aside from the social aspect, it's school. Work is work."

When asked if they would come here to RWU if they had another shot at graduating high school again, there were mixed responses. Robinson states that he would likely go to a school closer to home.

"It hasn't been a very fulfilling experience. It's not necessarily race, but how the university deals with students," Mack says.

"I haven't had a really big negative experience here," says Fils. "So I guess I would come. There isn't anything that would change my mind."

Black students at RWU agree that the experience is what you make of it. At times, the social aspect of the university can be frustrating. Sometimes situations can make you feel as if society is, although at other times it may seem much different.

During the Civil Rights Movement, those students that tried to enter segregated college doors were often met with animosity and violence. As black students of 2004, there are still incidents of ignorance, but it is a requirement to educate those who do not know better. It is also a requirement to adapt to the environment and grow.

"That's life. Life is about adapting. It's just a part of life," says Fils.

Token Male

cont. from page 7

competitively at the age of nine when he got his first pony. He got involved in the sport, because where in upstate New York, "There is nothing else to do but ride horses." In addition to his many ribbons that could fill a dorm room, Wertheim's greatest success in the sport came two years ago when he competed in a three-day international competition, where his team beat the Canadian junior Olympic team.

When Wertheim was looking at colleges his main concern was looking for a college that had a barn where he could keep his horse. In spite of a recruitment offer from St. Lawrence University, he decided to join the RWU equestrian team late last semester, which is ranked second in the region.

Despite the occupational

bumps and bruises from the sport, Wertheim, in his long career of being a solo male rider, has encountered some levels of criticisms from peers, with the occasional comments about the tight pants that are worn for horse shows, or the question of his sexuality for competing in a female dominated sport.

"Besides all that, in the professional horse world, there are actually more male riders than female riders. But on the college level, there are very few male riders" explained Elissa Schwartz, head coach of the RWU equestrian team.

Since coming to college Wertheim says that, "the challenges are still the same, but the awards are greater just being a part of a team. It's one of the few sports or things that actually challenges me. That's why I stick with it."

Other than his passion for riding, Wertheim has

endured other sports, where he was the dominant gender. A few years ago, he tried out for the qualifying rounds of the X-Games for ski cross, where he just missed the cut. Even after the disappointment of the not making it to the X-Games, he continued his love for skiing throughout high school.

Wertheim admits being the only male has its perks but the downside, he says, is "dealing with the female politics." But in many other sports females are fighting for increased recognition.

Lauren Perreca, a team member says, "having a male on the team is a breath of fresh air in a predominately female sport. We get a different perspective from Mark. He gives us an edge on competition and helps round off our team. RWU equestrian wouldn't be the same without our token male figure."

Wertheim may have to deal with female antics

from time to time, but in the end, the sport has taught him "the importance of competition and building strong team bonds that last forever."

Schwartz has worked tirelessly to make the RWU equestrian team successful and also respected by the community. "I've heard people tell me that the horse does all the work and all we do is sit there. The fact of the matter is that we work our butts off both physically and mentally. Having guys on the team, in a still pretty sexist world, helps to legitimize the sport. Sorry girls—women's sports still do not have the same following as men's sports, partially because women are seen as inferior athletes. In riding, women and men are pretty much equal. It's great to see both sexes competing on the same level. Maybe there is some place in this world where men and women can be 'equal.'"